



Lewisham Education
Arts Network

Community of Practice (CoP) Facilitator for SPARC (SPRING Arts Resilience Circle)

Brief

- Fee £250 (inclusive of preparation, travel and all taxes) per session
- First session: 23rd September 2015, 13:30 – 16:00, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, Dance Faculty (next session TBC)

About the Programme:

Aim: to increase artists' ability to apply resilience and emotional literacy practice to their arts practice, and effectively measure the impact of this work with children and young people (10-14 years).

Our hypothesis is that:

- Artists employ resilient practice in their work with children and young people but do not recognise it as such
- Artists need help to identify resilient practice in their work
- Artists could increase their use of resilient practice in their work
- Artists could strengthen their methods of measuring how they build resilience in children and young people

Stage one of SPARC was a symposium held on 16 June.

SPARC Symposium: what is resilience and how do the arts contribute to it?

An event to understand what artists working within the wellbeing/mental health sectors currently know about resilience, increase that knowledge and relate it to their practice, and to identify their CPD needs

This event, attended by 35 people, included talks from:

Mary Hinton, one of three **Headstart** Advisors working to support the 12 Headstart areas across the country. She is also employed by **Boing Boing** – a Community Interest Company dedicated to resilience research and practice.

Adam Annand, Associate Director Creative Learning, **London Bubble Theatre Company**. London Bubble delivers a drama project that supports children's communication development.

The Albany
Douglas Way
London SE8 4AG

T +44 (0)20 8694 6622

F +44 (0)20 8469 2253

E jane@leanarts.org.uk finance@leanarts.org.uk



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Stage two of SPARC will build on the learning from the symposium through developing a Community of Practice (CoP).

How can the CoP increase artists' ability to apply resilience and emotional literacy practice to their arts practice?

A community of practice:

- Can be created specifically with the goal of gaining knowledge related to their field
- It is through the process of sharing information and experiences with the group that the members learn from each other, and have an opportunity to develop themselves personally and professionally ([Lave & Wenger 1991](#)).

We aim to facilitate a **minimum of 10 artists to create a Community of Practice (CoP)** to contribute to the project's overall aim: to increase artists' ability to apply resilience and emotional literacy practice to their arts practice, and effectively measure the impact of this work with children and young people (10-14years).

A CoP may achieve its aim(s) by employing all or some of the following:

- Peer to peer problem solving
- Sharing information and experiences
- Sharing assets e.g. research
- Advocacy e.g. how the arts contribute to building resilience in children and young people
- Act as a sounding board
- Document and disseminate the learning
- Visits e.g. see work supporting resilience in action
- Mapping and identifying gaps

The Opportunity:

We are looking for an individual to facilitate two sessions to kick-start the arts and building resilience CoP (SPARC). This is the first meeting following our symposium where people expressed an interest in being involved. There is also support for participants to visit and observe resilient work in action.

You will have a:

- Strong understanding of resilience, resilient practice and resilient moves
- Experience facilitating groups

It is desirable you have some knowledge of the arts and building a community of practice.

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In the first session, we would like you to:

- Establish a safe sharing environment
- Develop a clear vision with the group:
 - The purpose is understood and shared
 - Their needs are identified
 - Identify the sort of CoP group do they want to become
 - How the group will operate
 - How the CoP will liaise and interact with Lewisham Education Arts Network
- Create an action plan with the group:
 - What do they want to achieve and how might they do it?
 - Help members of the CoP to identify what sorts of work using the arts to build resilience in children and young people they would like to observe and/or workshops/seminars they might attend

(NB the focus is on how the arts build resilience of the children and young people, with recognition that the resilience of the arts educators is also important).

Express your interest:

Please send a CV with a covering letter explaining why this is of interest and briefly describe your approach to the session (the latter in no more than 500 words).

Deadline Wednesday 9th September 12 noon

If you have any questions, and to submit your CV and covering letter, please email Jane Hendrie jane@leanarts.org.uk

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